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PHOTO BY STAN MADDUX

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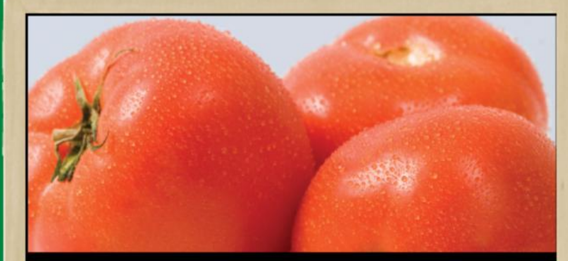

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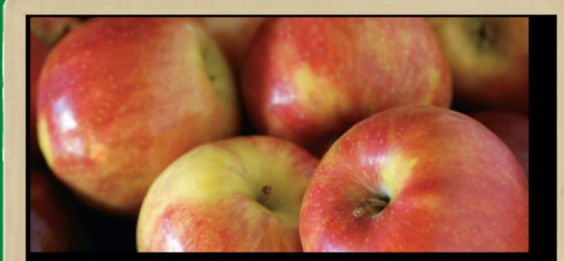

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Weather ideal for viewing solar eclipse

BY STAN MADDUX

More than 100 people with protective eye wear turned out to watch the solar eclipse Monday, April 8, at Luhr Park Nature Center between La Porte and Kingsbury.

The weather couldn't have been more favorable, perhaps, with barely a cloud in the sky and 70 degree temperatures.

Donnie Fuller, who lives close to the park, said he didn't know what to expect from 96% of the sun being covered by the moon but felt the twilight conditions that existed were going to be darker.

He was also surprised by how noticeably cooler the weather became at the peak of the eclipse.

"I think that's pretty neat," he said.

A lot of people, like Maury Blair and his wife, Jill, from La Porte, came out in groups to experience the rare happening of the moon passing between the sun and earth.

"It's like a half-eaten piece of cheese," said his 9-year-old son, Ben, while looking at the sky with protective eyewear on about 30 minutes after the moon started blocking the sun.

Blair said he viewed the moment as a way to spend quality time with his family and learn something along the way.

"It's just a great opportunity to experience something educational. It only happens so many times. It's very cool to experience this with him and the family," he said.

Dustin Luse of Kingsbury took a striking close up picture of the moon partially blocking the sun by zooming in with his cellphone camera through a protective lens on his glasses.

Luse said he was surprised at the results.

"Yeah. I sure was," he said.

"It's interesting," said Kim Zurek, who brought her 12-year-old daughter, Carly.

The La Porte woman described the sun about halfway through the eclipse as "pierogi shaped"

Kelcey Laine also of La Porte came with her sons Troy, 9, Jason, 5, and Maverick, 4.

"I think it's actually really cool. It's something that's a first time experience for me and my kids," she said.

Donna Grass came from Wanatah with her 9-year-old granddaughter, Mackenzie, who gave a thumbs up after looking at the moon passing over the sun for the first time with her protective eyeglasses on.

Some people showed up with their own protective eyewear, while others were given a free pair by employees of the La Porte County Public Library system.

Library employees helped with the event featuring activities for children, like a planet themed story walk, making glasses for safely looking at the sun and an eclipse art project.

La Porte County Park Department Superintendent Jeremy Sobecki said the same event at Creek Ridge County Park near Michigan City drew a similar turnout.

"All of the parking lots are full," he said.

Sobecki said attendance likely received a boost from the La Porte School Corporation keeping students at home for e-learning as a safety precaution.

"I think probably a lot of people thought 'Let's go to the park' and this is a great place to come out and check it out," he said.

The practice of manipulation is usuallly only successful when the manipulator remains undiscovered. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Mayor highlights new team approach in State of City speech

BY STAN MADDUX

The new mayor of Michigan City seems to have wrapped her arms around everything she feels will help better serve residents and assist with the transformation of the community projected from quicker travel to and from Chicago by train.

During her State of the City speech Wednesday, April 10, Angie Nelson Deuitch called herself a "cheerleader for Michigan City."

She wants her administration ready to respond favorably in areas ranging from daily trash pickup to the major growth expected soon in a city with 41 percent of its residents living in poverty.

Deuitch said she's been reaching out to the city council, department heads and citizens to help create a team approach to running a more effective, efficient and responsive local government during her first 100 days in office.

"I can't do this alone," she said.

Deuitch said her plan includes outreach with city employees taking part in things like friendly competitions out in the community.

Recently, the park department was the winner in collecting more than 900 food items or about one-third of what the city collected to help provide for the hungry.

Deuitch said she is also not leaving any stones unturned in search for outside sources of revenue to help pay for things like repairing streets, more access to high speed internet, workforce development and building a community center.

She said several grants have already been obtained by her administration while millions of dollars in additional

ones are being sought for other needs such as construction of affordable housing for teachers.

Deuitch said the $5 million set aside for road paving this year is being funded partially with grants, she said.

Some of the grants were awarded with help from state and federal officials she had contact with during her two separate terms on the city council and employment with NIPSCO.

"Relationships matter when you're begging for money "I'm a beggar of money. I have no problem saying that. I'll ask everybody for money," she said.

Other goals outlined during her speech included having one location for help in finding employment, food assistance and other social services.

"If we elevate all parts of town, all of Michigan City will be successful," she said.

Deuitch also revealed code enforcement has become more aggressive in trying to get buildings repaired and junk vehicles out of neighborhoods.

She said over 80 tickets worth more than $23,000 in fines were handed out in the first three months of the year.

Deuitch also expressed a desire to have more cultural events to help serve the visitors and new residents projected once construction of the second South Shore Commuter rail line between Michigan City and Gary is completed next month.

Construction recently started on a 12 story apartment tower at the new train station at 11th and Franklin streets.

Utilities were just relocated to make way for two similar sized buildings that will contain mostly a boutique hotel and luxury condominiums along U.S. 12 next to City Hall.

"This is a big deal that people are willing to invest like this in Michigan City," she said.

City Councilman Bryant Dabney said improved morale among city employees is one of the biggest changes brought, so far, by the new mayor along with staff members being more involved in the community.

He said her almost non-stop pursuit of grant money is also different from previous years.

"She is just more active in terms of talking to our state representatives, federal representatives in order to bring funding into Michigan City so that is a very good thing for us moving forward," Dabney said.

City Council President Don Przybylinski agreed with Dabney on the biggest impacts the mayor has had since taking office Jan. 1.

"It's been a major change," he said.

Over 100 people attended the speech at the Holdcraft Performing Arts Center, which is inside the former Elston High School.

As great minds have the faculty of saying a great deal in a few words, so lesser minds have a talent of talking much, and saying nothing.
— Francois Duc De La Rochefoucauld

GARDEN CLUB'S APRIL MEETING TO HIGHLIGHT BIRDING

The River Valley Garden Club's April 16 meeting will feature Lynea Hinchman, a birding expert and lifelong resident of the Indiana Dunes.

The meeting is open to the public and starts at 1 p.m., with the presentation starting at 2 p.m., at the Harbert Community Church at the corner of Three Oaks and Harbert roads in Sawyer

"Birds are so connected to gardening," said Elizabeth Palulis, president of the garden club. "We are all looking forward to learning more about birds, especially the local ones. The garden club's biggest project is coming up soon: The annual garden club plant sale will be May 18 this year. The sale is a great kickoff to spring and provides an opportunity for potential members to see members in action."

Hinchman has been a birder for more than 40 years. Although she has birded on all seven continents, the Dunes remains Lynea's favorite birding location. She is personally familiar, both by sight and sound, with all the avian species found in the Dunes area. Her passion for nature should be obvious when she speaks at the garden club.

Anyone with an interest in gardening is always welcome at the River Valley Garden Club. The club has field trips, guest speakers, a member's plant auction and hands-on workshops in addition to the annual plant sale. The club is also involved in service projects throughout the year. Members come from Indiana and throughout southwest Michigan. For more information, contact Palulis at 269-362-4564 or email her at evpalulis@yahoo.com. Also visit the club's website, www.rivervalleygardenclub.org. — STAFF REPORTS

Driver drunk in crash with house

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte County woman who was standing at her mailbox watched in disbelief as a vehicle crashed into her house.

Diane Carter, 75, said she became even more rattled because impact was made right where she was sitting just prior to the collision.

"I would have been dead had I been there. So, that probably was the hardest thing for me to deal with because just that knowledge, you know," she said.

The 30-year-old driver has been charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with Level 6 felony operating while intoxicated and Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license.

About 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, Trail Creek Police said Lane was traveling Yanke Road when he ran a stop sign where the street dead ends with Welnetz Road.

He continued straight into Carter's yard before crashing into the foundation of the quad level home at 1927 Welnetz Road, according to court documents.

The front end of his 2009 Volkswagen Routan was more than halfway into the family room of the residence, which was left with bricks from the foundation being all over the floor and other damage.

Carter said she was sitting in a love seat, which is where the impact was made about 10 minutes prior to the crash.

She got up to check her mail and was at the mailbox when she saw the van run the stop sign and strike her house.

Carter said the vehicle pushed the now broken chair she was just in about 3 feet across the floor.

There were also numerous bricks from the foundation littering the floor of her family room.

"Even if I hadn't been sitting in that chair, I could have gotten hit in the head with a foundation brick," she said.

According to court documents, Lane, who suffered just a minor cut to his head, told police he couldn't stop the vehicle.

He offered no reason but did say he was driving over the speed limit, police said.

His alleged blood alcohol level was .09 percent.

The misdemeanor offense was upgraded to a felony because of Lane having a prior OWI conviction, authorities said.

According to police, Lane was living with his grandfather, who happens to be a neighbor of the victims.

Initially, Carter said she was shaken up, if not, hysterical about the collision but has since calmed down.

Carter said she and her husband, Bill, who was upstairs at the time, were not injured. The driver's injuries were just minor and the damage is going to be covered by her insurance policy.

"I feel very grateful that everything is okay and all of this stuff is replaceable and fixable," she said.

Carter, who has lived there for about 35 years, said there appeared to be no effort by the driver to slow down while she was witnessing the crash and later watching it on video.

"I'm not angry with him. I just hope he gets the help he needs," she said.

DAR to offer hands on workshop in headstone cleaning and preservation

The Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has partnered with the Three Oaks Township and University of Michigan-Flint Prof. of History Thomas Henthorn to offer a free workshop on headstone cleaning and preservation at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Three Oaks Township.

Cemeteries are more than meets the eye. These historic sites contain art, stories, and landscapes that tell us a great deal about our past and present. Henthorn and some of his students will share methods, technology and procedures to preserve cemetery headstones and structures in relation to cleaning, repairing and restoring monuments to your local and family history.

Henthorn is the Wyatt Endowed Professor of Public History at the University of Michigan-Flint. His research and teaching interests examine the intersection of public history and urban history. He created the cemetery preservation program in 2015.

All supplies will be available; however, participants should wear gardening clothing and gloves. Lunch will be provided by the Rebecca Dewey Chapter, NSDAR.

Reservations to participate are required. Contact Rebecca Dewey Chapter at rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com to reserve your place in this workshop by May 10. — STAFF REPORTS

SCHOLASTICS

Food services flowing smoothly at New Buffalo Area Schools

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

This school year, all students at New Buffalo Area Schools have received breakfast and lunch at no charge, Patty Iazzetto, food services director, said.

This is due to the school district being part of the new Michigan School Meals program, she said during the New Buffalo Area Schools' Monday, April 8, meeting.

In her 2024 fiscal year budget, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had ensured that breakfast and lunch is free for all students.

Iazzetto said that Whitmer is expected to turn Michigan School Meals into a law soon, although nothing has been finalized.

If not, then the district will return to the National School Lunch Program, where students who qualify for free and reduced meals don't have to pay for them.

To receive reimbursement, the district must serve meals considered reimbursable. Iazzetto said strict guidelines that ensure that students are being offered "the right balance of fruits, vegetables, low fat milk, whole grains and lean protein" must be followed.

"So we'd like to see this turn into a law for all students to have free access to meals," she said.

The staff is composed of 12 employees, who serve breakfast, lunch, afterschool snack,preschool snack, daycare snack, summer breakfast and special events throughout the year.

The district has applied for grants, such as the 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan Kids and Farms, that can be used only for Michigan grown foods, minimally processed fruits and vegetables and dried beans. Iazzetto said that Artisan Farms in New Buffalo delivers fresh mixed lettuce to the district every week and that they also purchase apple slices from Peterson Farms in Shelby, Michigan, and green and red peppers from Gordon Food Service out of Grand Rapids.

Students view the April 8 eclipse at New Buffalo Elementary School (photo provided by Facebook)

The grants help when there're supply chain disruptions that stop the district from getting certain foods regularly.

The middle/high school has a vending machine in the cafeteria commons, which is open throughout the school day, on evenings and weekends, that's stocked with items that have been approved by Smart Snacks in Schools.

Meals will be offered at New Buffalo to summer school and day camp students this summer from July 1-Aug. 2. Due to the low free and reduced numbers in the current census data, though, New Buffalo will not be eligible to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture's summer feeding program this year. Instead of the district receiving reimbursement for the meals from the government, it'll be an out of pocket cost. Last meeting, board members approved Iazzetto applying for a Pokagon Fund Grant for the feeding program.

Looking to the fall, Iazzetto said that the food services staff is excited to move into a new space at the elementary school, which will include new equipment, better floors and lunch tables, a new servery, a handwashing station and rubber floors in the kitchen.

Construction was on schedule for the kitchen expansion as of before spring break.

Board members accepted the resignation of Nathan Jones, high school math teacher, effective June 30.

"Nathan has been a great teacher for our district so we are sad to see him go," board president Lisa Werner said.

Board members approved authorizing Cassie King, elementary interim principal, to submit a Pokagon Fund grant application requesting funds to restock the book vending machines.

Board members approved the district purchasing property located at #50 Diamond Point Lane for $38,000.00, for the purpose of the Building Trades program.

New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the property came under his radar when it was realized the Planned Unit Development (PUD), which will be located across from the elementary school, won't be ready next school year.

The district will be responsible for the HOA fees, which will include the maintenance of the pool, snow removal and mowing of the grass.

The plan is to punch the hole and dig the foundation in late July and the beginning of August and to handle the permitting around then, so that the foundation will be ready by the start of the school year in September.

The resignation of Melinda Batey, effective immediately, who works at New Buffalo Area Schools Daycare, was approved.

The amended language regarding GPA for the high school handbook was approved.

Bowen said that it was discovered that, while students received credit for taking a credit recovery course, the credit had never wiped out their previously lower grade. Bowen said the new language supports the higher grade that students achieve after taking the course or retaking a class being the one going on their GPA.

Bowen said that 80 students visited the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to view the solar eclipse April 8, and that elementary school students viewed it through glasses that were purchased by the Parent Teacher Organization.

Play in the dirt at Goldberry Woods' 'Spring Hoop House Planting'

Lend a hand and gain practical experience growing your own food by being a part of the Goldberry Woods Team for "Spring Planting in their Hoop House."

Don't miss this unique opportunity to see behind the scenes of Union Pier's only micro-farm. Play in the dirt and connect with the wish to grow in all living things from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday or Saturday, April 12-13.

Participants will meet in the barn. The cost is $125 per day, which includes food, beverage, gardening equipment and a free souvenir.

"Spring Planting in the Hoop House" will be led by Innkeeper, farmer and owner, Julie Haberichter.

Haberichter was born playing in the dirt and has meshed chemical and mechanical knowledge with her passion for safe and healthy foods, holistic wellness, care for soil and awareness of the pollinators and other creepy crawlies that are affected by our gardening endeavors.

The program will allow participants to do the following:

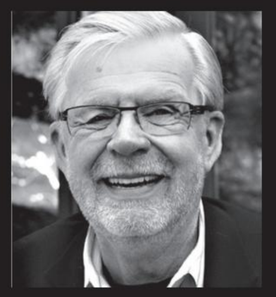
- Learn about soil sampling, soil amendments, cover crops and compost.
- Engage in bed preparation, sowing and transplanting, marking and labeling, plus watering and irrigation.
- Embrace a guided meditation to cultivate the Wish to Grow within yourself and the Hoop House.
- Enjoy refreshments and a wholesome lunch of soup and bread (dietary modifications available)
- Family friendly event with specific activities for 10 and under
- Take home a special gift to remember your experience and planting teammates.

While not OMRI certified, at Goldberry farming methods are employed that, in many ways, surpass USDA organic, where aspects of permaculture, biodiversity and upcycling are holistically considered. Goldberry tries to create many of their own inputs through cover cropping and composting and are exploring lunar planting this season. This is a place where they seek to continually learn and share with great transparency.

To reserve a spot and for more details, visit www.ombralunare.com/event-details-registration/hoop-house-planting-experience. — STAFF REPORTS

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Since last week's column, the Cubs have won five out of six, including two out of three against the mighty Dodgers, while the White Sox have lost five out of six.

There are a lot of games yet to be played, so diving into positives and negatives can wait for a while.

I almost always write this column on Sunday nights, so I am unable to bring you information regarding the NCAA men's basketball championship game between Purdue and the University of Connecticut [UCONN won], but I was able to watch the women's game this afternoon, and what a game it was.

While sitting in a restaurant last night, the Alabama vs. UCONN men's game was playing so we moved to the bar so we could watch.

About half way through the game, my companion said that with all the basketball games we've watched lately, she thought the women were at least as good as the men. My immediate reaction was one of disbelief but as the game continued, I began to see what she was talking about.

I know that the women aren't as fast, can't jump nearly as high, and are no match physically for the men, but the gap between three point shooting and passing is certainly getting smaller.

Caitlin Clark, the G.O.A.T. in all of collegiate basketball, is an unbelievable shooter.

I'm probably exaggerating, but I think she may be as good as Steph Curry. The three pointers she took, and made, were near the half court line at times. She's also a great passer and has the ability to anticipate when a teammate is about to make a move, and gets them the ball in position to score. South Carolina was bigger, quicker and stronger than Iowa, and in the end Carolina prevailed 87-75.

Good sportsmanship is an important part of sports.

Being a gracious winner is as important as being a good loser. Last season, some of the women fell short, but this year, they not only played terrifically, they were all good sports too.

South Carolina's coach, Dawn Staley, made it a point to praise Iowa's entire team, but saved her biggest accolades for Caitlin.

Also, the feud between LSU and Iowa was put to rest as all of the protagonists from last year showed respect for each other this year.

Caitlin Clark has had a tremendous impact on women's basketball. She set records upon records. More people tuned in to watch the games than ever in the history of the sport.

When next year's tournament is played, it will be interesting to see if any team or player can capture the imagination of all the new fans. I believe that women's basketball has arrived and the popularity is here to stay. Not to be forgotten, the men's championship should also be a barn burner.

March Madness is here to stay, but now it will be twice as much fun.

Stephen Colbert said, "Thankfully, dreams can change. If we'd all stuck with our first dream, the world would be overrun with cowboys and princesses."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Bison split doubleheader with Mustangs

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School baseball team split a doubleheader at home Tuesday, April 9, with the arch rival Mustangs from River Valley High School.

In the first game, the Bison showed a never give up attitude in coming from behind twice to take the lead and later win the game 8-7 in the final inning.

Starting pitcher Sam Wendell-Suppa struggled early, giving up three runs to the Mustangs in the first inning after walking two batters and giving up a two out single to Trey Ackerman.

The Bison came back with two runs in the bottom of the inning off starting pitcher Ryder Wolnik, who gave up a bloop single to Vaugh Nikkel then struck out the next hitter, Jaydon Berger.

Ethan Lijewski took first base when hit by a pitch.

Both runners wound up scoring on a bad throw in a force out attempt at second base.

The Mustangs added a run in the second inning from Wendell-Suppa striking a batter with a pitch then walking three of the next four hitters.

The Bison took the lead in the bottom of the third inning, which began with a single from Lijewski.

The next two batters struck out before Lijewski scored on a crisp line drive single from Jeff Tertel.

The inning appeared over, though, after Wendell-Suppa struck out.

However, the catcher dropped the ball on the third strike and made a bad throw allowing Wendell Suppa to reach first base safely.

Another Bison runner soon crossed the plate on fielding error.

Two more New Buffalo runners scored on a bloop single down the first base line from Drew Bowen and a single to left field by Nikkel.

Lijewski, who gave up no runs in the fifth inning while pitching in relief, walked the first two batters in the sixth inning.

Those runners, Wolnik and Shawn Driscoll, later scored from third base to tie the game on two consecutive sacrifice bunts from Cooper Lynch and Matthew Moore.

The Mustangs took the lead in the top of the seventh inning when Nikkel after replacing Lijewski on the mound walked Owen Slavens, who stole second base and scored on a wild pitch.

Driscoll taking the mound in relief of Wolnik started with a base on balls to Nick Wolfe, who advanced to second base on a line drive single to right field by Brayden Huffer.

Wolf was forced out at third base on a ground ball to the shortstop but Huffer tied the game by scoring on a hard hit double to right field by Wendell-Suppa.

The Bison won the game when Bowen was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

River Valley won the second game 7-2.

The game was called after four innings because of darkness.

New Buffalo Head Coach Adam Lijewski said his players seemed "mentally exhausted" after the come from behind first game victory.

The split moved the Bison to 3-1 on the season while River Valley's record dropped to 2-1.

The sign of success is the hate you get along the way. — *Devin Haney*

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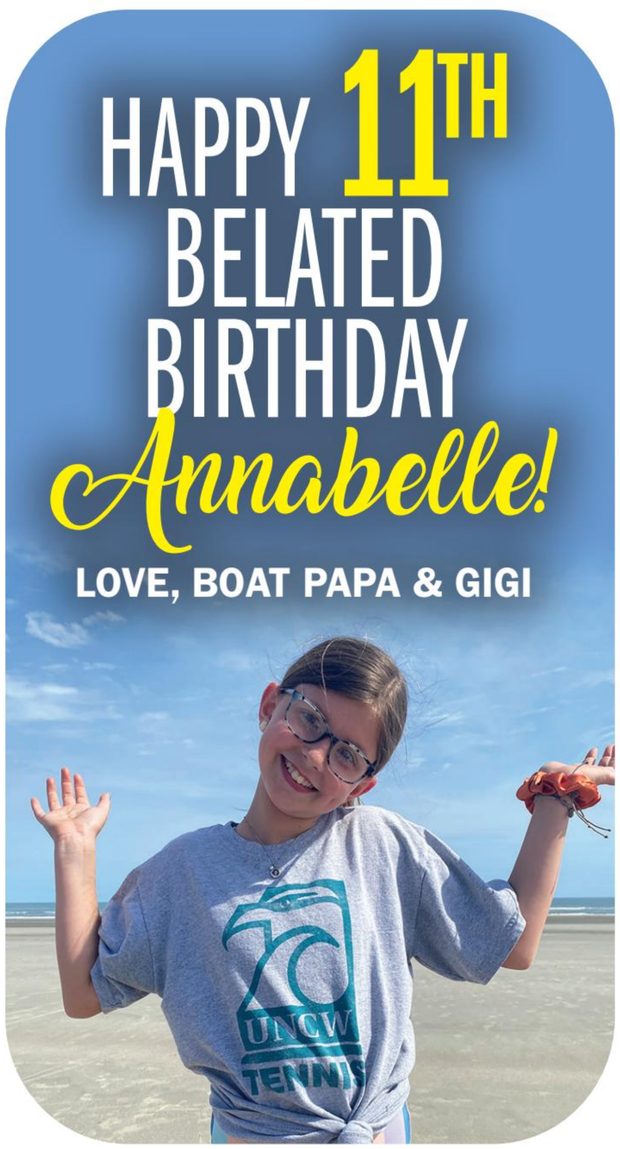

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APRIL 11-17, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You are going to be moving in a new direction this week, putting you more in line with what you love doing. Your sense of value will increase along with your pocket book. Whatever you had hoped would materialize in January, career wise, will finally come into focus now.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Expect a very happy ending or a significant breakthrough to occur this week. It will feel good to finally be moving forward, to be free from an oppressive situation, and make some substantial progress in a previously stagnant relationship. This is your opportunity to move on with a clean break.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Friends will shift your focus in a way that will help you overcome a health or work issue. This is the time to restructure debt and realign your daily routines so that you are operating at your highest potentials. This is the opportunity you had hoped for at the beginning of this year.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Your career and public image will be taking a new and better course of direction this week. Things that have been going nowhere for several weeks will finally start to move now. If you have had some dead weight on your crew, you'll lose it and finally get some things accomplished.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Adventure awaits this week. Let's face it things have been pretty stagnant and oppositional the last couple of weeks, but now things will finally start coming together. Ideas and plans will solidify in a way that balances out your home and health routines. No more will your time be squandered.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

The low vibe you felt over the last month will be moving away, and dull situations or boring relationships will be revitalized. This is the time to make the first move in those creative endeavors and talk with prospective partners. Go over the presentations you've been keeping on the back burner.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Relationships will be moving in a new direction this week, and it's important you make room for more romance and affection in your life. If you have let your relationship fire fizzle, it will be fired back up now. Let the fires refresh your spirit and reconnect you to a more enthusiastic life.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Long awaited career opportunities will open up this week. They may start out slow but if you jump on them now, they will take your career to the next level. This reflects back to something you had small glimpse of earlier this year but didn't go after. Now the occasion returns.

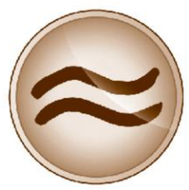
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Your sense of adventure is returning and your passion for life is also returning. If you have been struggling with stagnant health situations, they will move in a new direction now. If you have been lacking that certain stamina or backbone, it will be strengthened.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This week you will finally be able to claim your own space and feel confidant about your position within the greater system. There are some things you may have ended abruptly at the beginning of this year, that will be returning for closure or to be put back into action.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



You could find yourself giving some sort of impromptu public speech or an unusual presentation may uncover some strange facts about you or your family's worth this week. If you feel confronted, don't shy away. Be completely honest, no matter what your family history holds.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Financial matters finally start moving this week. Since January, you may not have felt much in the way of advancement or contentment with your finances but you are going to see the opportunities you had wished had happened, at the beginning of the year, happen now. Very good happenings.

Quality is not an act, it is a habit. — *Aristotle*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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		1				5		
		7		4	5			
		5	4		1			
		4	5	9	6			
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		9		1				

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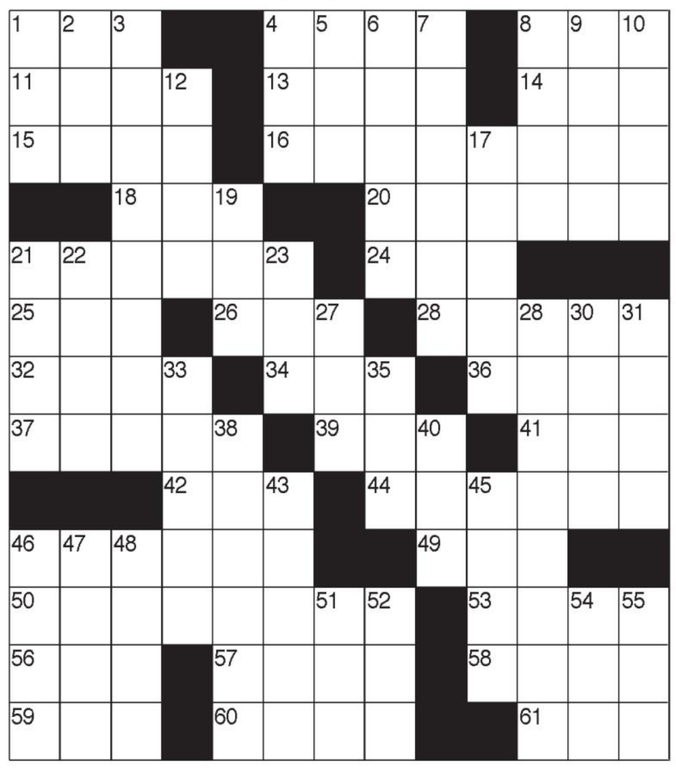
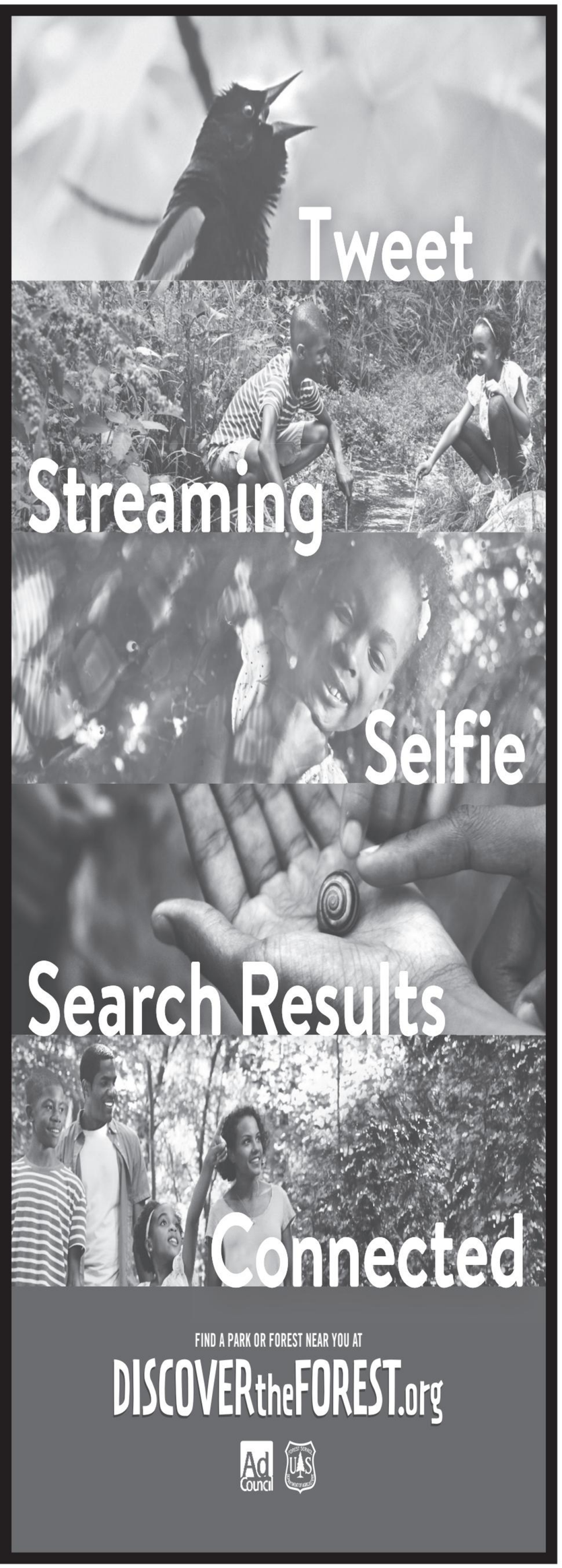
ACROSS

1 Civilian Conservation Corps (abbr.)
4 Bean cheese
8 Label
11 Glass (pref.)
13 Twist
14 River (Sp.)
15 Zulu warriors
16 Sneaking
18 Retail liquor dealer (abbr.)
20 Measuring instruments
21 Without a country
24 Fortunate (India)
25 Receipt (abbr.)
26 Disseminate
28 Arrange as hangings
32 Occipital protuberances
34 Federal Bureau of Investigation (abbr.)
36 Ancient Gr. city
37 River into the Rhone
39 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (abbr.)
41 Illicit drug
42 Compass direction
44 New York river
46 Characteristics
49 Grand Old Party (abbr.)
50 Backward
53 Become insignificant
56 Civil Aeronautics Admin. (abbr.)
57 Airplane
58 Pounds per sq. inch, diff. (abbr.)
59 Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
60 Attention getting sound
61 Spring

DOWN

1 22nd Greek letter
2 Cymric (abbr.)
3 Strauss opera
4 Township (abbr.)
5 Propel
6 Jumping amphibians
7 Up
8 School course (abbr.)
9 Senior (Fr.)
10 Swamps
12 Bagpipe hole
17 Shrine (Fr.)
19 Some (Fr.)
21 Sister of Ares
22 Ohio city
23 Defense (abbr.)
27 Boxing org.
29 Cenis (2 words)
30 ____ Rivera, CA
31 Television channel
33 Girl's name
35 Legendary Celt
38 Noose
40 Reek
43 Colorado park
45 Cup to hold a gem
46 Muscular spasms
47 Royal Naval Air Service (abbr.)
48 Caucasian language
51 Hesitation sounds
52 Iota
54 Edge of crater
55 Girl's name





A Day in the Life

A WIDOW STRUGGLING FOR NORMALCY

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

Often, we dread calling and talking to a friend or relative who suffers from Alzheimer's.

The disease affects their memory and reduces the conversation to that of frequently repeating and explaining the simplest memories or issues about their lives, or any other subject.

"Is it cold out there?" she asks several times. "It doesn't seem like we've had any winter at all," she states, again and again. It's a means for her to gather her senses for the moment, she hopes.

It doesn't work.

When the family moved to the farm, she refused to leave the small town that she loved: "Why would I want to go someplace where I know no one?" She had a point. In Fremont, she was the "doctor's granddaughter," and stayed behind for several weeks with her widowed grandmother. She had many friends there that she dreaded leaving. She lasted about six weeks before she was homesick for her mother and family and moved to the farm.

Eventually, she married, had three children and settled in Westfield, New Jersey. There, she was in constant motion: She entertained often and held frequent meetings and events in their home. As far as stay-at-home moms go, she was a star.

She edited several local news publications, including for her Presbyterian church, for which she was a deacon (she was proud that her church hid the Liberty bell during the war). She worked the polls at every election. In essence, she was the proverbial "mover and shaker" in her circle and enjoyed the fun and stature that all of her incredible hard work brought her.

She is the oldest active member of Chi Omega, her college sorority. She belonged to her exceptional church choir and practiced once a week. She sponsored her church group in several events and projects, including a Christmas gift program for the elderly. For 40 years, she sold pecans for Chi Omega. Pounds and pounds of pecans were delivered to her house, where she would re-package and then deliver them.

Her frequent shopping trips, which were, most often, at Lord and Taylor, were not long; she knew what she wanted. Once, she bought shoes she liked in six colors! Her kids had new ski outfits every year and were always the best dressed in school. I think that was influenced by when she had to wear her mother's home made clothes in high school.

For years, without a housekeeper, she maintained the family home in the Poconos Mountains. Since her husband, Dominic, kept putting off a bathroom remodel, she ordered a designer and had the bathroom installed when he left the country for a business trip.

She had spunk.

She has always been a masterful person in handling challenges, with incredible effort and focus. She often made Christmas gifts for the entire family, such as hand made candles and, once, place mats in sets for the entire family out of suede fabric. She made fruit cakes for the whole family too, baked in coffee cans that are no longer in production. She's a saver of things. You should see the basement and the third floor of their old home; she could open a store.

She has had her bad scenes too, which included a flood in her earliest home shortly after her girls were born. It was a terrible mess of sludge and debris that she tackled all by herself with her usual aplomb.

Now, she lives with her newest of challenges: old age and her health. Just a few weeks after burying Dominic, she was blinded by a stroke. Having been so active all of her life with her editing, her blindness is especially tragic. She has chosen to live out her life in the big old home, where she has lived for more than 40 years. Her son, Nick, and his wife live nearby and visit her daily. Two loving daughters, who live hours away in Chicago, come often to work for and to entertain her. She would like to have a dog but is afraid she might trip on one. She doesn't belong to her church choir anymore, and barely makes it to church these days. She is short, bored and depressed.

She says her many friends are all old, like her, and their husbands have passed, like hers. Since they don't drive anymore, visiting them is difficult. She is insecure, too, about not being able to see. She thinks sometimes that she'd like to be in a retirement home, but she's uncertain that would suit her needs.

What do you say or do? She thinks her life is boring, and it is. When she says that she "wishes it would just be over", what do you say? Annie is my sister..

OBITUARIES

Elsie Lena Priest

1931-2024

Elsie Lena Priest, 93, of Three Oaks, died peacefully, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, in the presence of her family.

Her life began April 1, 1931, in Weesaw Township, Michigan, the oldest of eight children born to Fredrick and Emma King. She married Martin Priest January 20, 1951, in Glendora Lutheran Church. After thirty-two years of marriage, he preceded her in death in January 1982.

Elsie and her husband grew and sold Christmas trees and holiday wreaths on their farm for many years. She also created beautiful flower arrangements for area weddings and special occasions. She loved and served her community in many ways, including working as the Chikaming Township Sewer and Water Clerk for thirteen years, as well as a township election Poll Worker. She also served on the Board of Directors of the River Valley Senior Center, was a Master Gardner, and a charter member of the River Valley Garden Club, where she served as President for several terms. In support of the area's youth, Elsie served on the Flower Barn Committee at the Berrien County Youth Fair. Her faith and church were central to her life. She was a long-time member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sawyer, where she was a member of the altar guild and volunteered with Lutheran Brotherhood.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff of Woodland Terrace, Bridgman, for their kindness and loving care for Elsie.

Elsie will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by three sons, Kenneth (Cyndy) Priest of Sawyer, Wayne (Rhonda) Priest of Sebring, Florida, Glenn (MaLaura) Priest of Hopkins, Minnesota; eight grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; four sisters, Erna Rudlaff of Berrien Springs, Norma Lohraff of Three Oaks, Sharon (Dennis) Bates of Jefferson City, Missouri, Carolyn (Dale) Zombory of Galien; one brother, Arthur (Linda) King of Three Oaks; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband; one daughter, Kerry Benke; one sister, Bertha Kubsch; one brother, Fredrick "Fritz" King; two brothers-in-law, Arthur Rudlaff, and Dale Lohraff.

Family and friends will gather Friday, April 12, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until time of service at 11:00 a.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church of Sawyer, 5791 Sawyer Road, Sawyer. The Reverend Brandon Wittig will officiate.

Elsie will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Chikaming Township.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Elsie be made to Trinity Lutheran Church of Sawyer, 5791 Sawyer Road, Sawyer Michigan 49125, or to Chikaming Open Lands, 12291 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer, Michigan 49125.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

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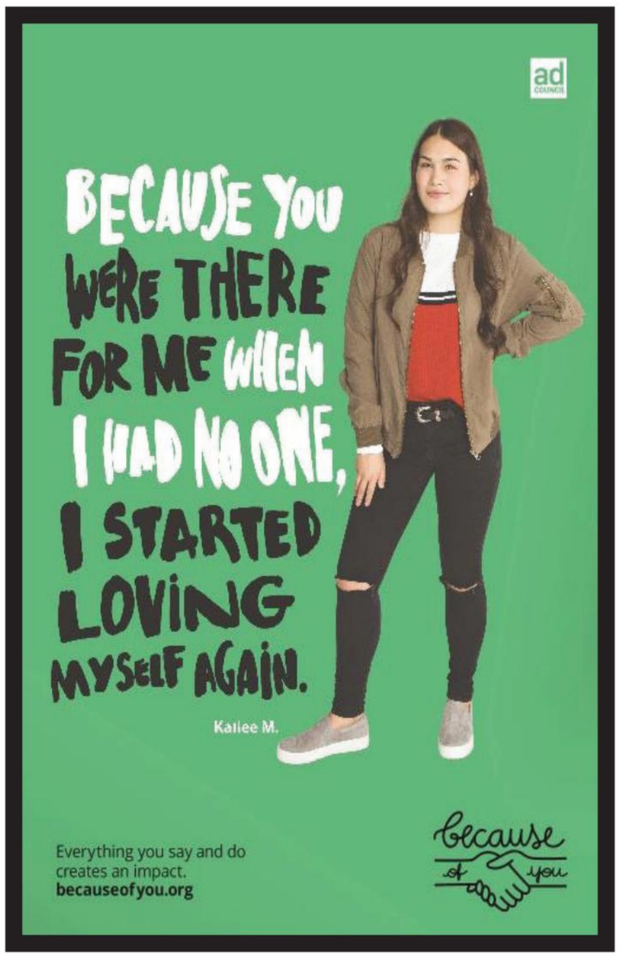
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DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Tina Michelle Gutzman, 55, of Three Oaks, died Monday, April 8, 2024 in the presence of her family. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

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Writer and Producer Mark Strauss is interviewed on the red carpet at The Catalina Film Festival

The cast from The Funeral Photographer

‘The Funeral Photographer’ screening gives back to ‘Final Farewell’

SHORT FILM NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Even in the early days of the production of his short film, “The Funeral Photographer,” Mark Strauss knew he’d want to use his cinematic creation to give back.

He got that chance when The Vicker’s Theater in Three Oaks, which was the venue for the screening of the film in October 2022, hosted a charity screening of the film to benefit Final Farewell, a non-profit organization that helps families who can’t afford funeral or burial services for children who pass away, Sunday, April 7.

Supporters of the film, who packed the theater, viewed the film before engaging in a question-and-answer session.

Strauss first learned of Final Farewell when he connected with its founder, Patricia Quin.

The charity seemed fitting as a beneficiary for the screening, as the film centers around a photographer, Julie (portrayed by Tara Hazel Walsh), who believes she’s at a funeral to merely take pictures of every attendant who’s there. Upon the discovery of two suspicious men, though, she starts to unravel why they’re there - and why she is, too.

Written and produced by Strauss, a Sawyer, Michigan, resident, “The Funeral Photographer” was also directed by Ashley Thompson.

The 17-minute film by Subtexter Films, in association with Cutters Studio, stars Tara Hazel Walsh, Curtis Edward Jackson and Timothy Weinert (who’s acted in “Chicago Fire”). The film also involved several locals, who served as extras. The film was shot over a three-day period in December 2019 at Wagner Family Funerals-Pobicik Chapel in Three Oaks.

Locals supported the film through a Crowdfunding effort to get it off the ground. Local coffee shops and restaurants, such as Red Arrow Roasters and Harbert Swedish Bakery, gave food during production.

“Lots of people in the community supported the film,” Strauss said.

At the charity screening, Strauss gave an update to his longtime supporters: “The Funeral Photographer” is now available on Youtube through the Omeleto channel, which has 3.72 million subscribers.

Since being launched on YouTube April 8, as of April 10, “The Funeral Photographer” has received 731 likes and 14,533 views.

Strauss said that he believes that number will soon grow, though.

“It’s a film narrative that’s crafted to be like a photograph - it’s very subtle and, oftentimes, takes multiple views,” he said.

A link to view the film can be found at www.subtexter.com.

“The Funeral Photographer” has just finished a successful run in 25 film festivals in the United States, Ireland and Canada.

The film won 13 awards throughout its run. It was the 2023 Official Selection at the Catalina Film Festival on Catalina Island in Los Angeles County within the city of Avalon, California. It was also an Official Selection in the New York Shorts International Film Festival, the largest short film festival on the East Coast, and garnered an Audience Award at the Chicago International Reel Shorts Film Festival.

It was also an Official Selection in the 14th Underground Cinema International Film Festival held in the historic Royal Marine Hotel in Dublin, Ireland.

Thompson also garnered a “Best Directors” award at the Grand Rapids Film Festival.

Strauss thanked his dedicated cast, as well as Thompson, for making it such a meaningful film for so many.

Now that he’s had the chance to bask in the glow of his first film, Strauss said he’s turned to other projects that are in the pipeline - some of which may be filmed in Michigan.

“I’m currently working on a couple thriller scripts,” he said.

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